Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 64087 KING PLACE WEST

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for the implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on the assessments, it is my determination that the public land within the King Place West allotment #64087 meets the Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land riparian areas on this allotment; therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover . August 17, 2012

Assistant Field Manager Date

Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 64087-2 KING PLACE WEST Allotment
[06/07/2012]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 64087 KING PLACE WEST. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
64087-IDSU-A170 (*)	X			X	*		N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on King Place West, Allotment #64087. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on 1 study location within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 to 10 years.

This is a "C" (Custodial) category allotment and contains 40 acres of public land, sitting on the edge of two ecological range sites; Loamy SD-3 and Shallow SD-3 and therefore is influenced by both. There is approximately 1,985 acres of private land and state leased lands within the allotment. The Pecos River is east of the public land and provides enough sub-irrigation to provide moisture to the deeper rooted plants such as mesquite and salt cedar. Up slope areas are more dominated by creosote. The grasses here have been affected by the ongoing drought, so while reproduction is still occurring the plants not showing the level of vigor expected during normal precipitation periods.

Other influencing factors here include an adjacent mineral pit to the west, agricultural fields to the east and illegal dumping.

The team noted a "Moderate to Extreme" departure from the ecological site for the Functional/Structural Groups, due to the level and extent of mesquite and creosote. The team indicated that the area could be a candidate for a vegetation treatment, but the treatment would have to be coordinated with other agencies, such as the NM State Land Office and NRCS in addition to the private land owner to be feasible, both economically and ecologically.

The (*) indicates that the assessment had one or more indicator(s) rated moderate/extreme or extreme. These indicators are:

- Functional/Structural Groups
- Invasive Plants

These indicators by themselves are not enough to rate the site as not meeting a standard but may warrant future monitoring.

Recommendations: As a majority of the indicators fall in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained, and that perennial grass-cover and good plant composition remains. The Team would recommend mapping the mesquite and creosote on the ranch to determine the viability of implementing a brush control treatment. As there are only 40 acres of public land, a brush control treatment would have be coordinated with the private land owner, the NM State Land Office and potentially the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to make the treatment feasible.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 64087-IDSU-A170			
Legal Land Desc	NWSE 26 0140S 0260E Meridian 23	Acreage	40
Ecosite	042CY007NM LOAMY SD-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007080 HAGERMAN		
Observers	ORTEGA & PIERCE	Observation Date	06/07/2012
County Soil Survey	NM666 CHAVES SOUTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	ReB	Soil Taxon Name	REAKOR
Texture Class	NM666 L	Soil Phase	REAKOR
Texture Modifier	NM666 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	9.77	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	7.24
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	13.18	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	11
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills				X	
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies				X	

Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer				X	
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups		X			
Comments:	Mesquite and creosote influence					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	drought					
B	Invasive Plants		X			
Comments:	Mesquite, creosote and saltcedar					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:	drought influence					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					

Comments:	none noted at this time					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:						

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	9	1
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	11	0
B	Biotic	0	2	1	6	1

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		2	1	7

Site Notes: Overall looks good, but should consider mapping for potential brush control.